

THE BEACON



Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

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DECEMBER
2004



2005 GRANTS THE SUBJECT OF KEARNEY CONFERENCE

NEW GUIDELINES LAID OUT FOR FIRST RESPONDERS, LOCAL OFFICIALS

Emergency managers, first responders and local and county officials came together in Kearney November 16th and 17th to get a look at the 2005 Homeland Security Grant programs, as the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency presented an early workshop to explain the grant framework.

The 2005 program closely resembles the previous 2004 grants in many ways, basing grant distribution on project proposals submitted by local jurisdictions. Again this year the emphasis is on incorporating training and exercising elements into the proposals, and all projects must support both state and federal plans.



Forewarned is forearmed: local and county officials got an early look at the 2005 DHS grant program.



Lt. Governor Dave Heineman was a popular target of questions after he delivered the keynote address.

The FY 2005 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, signed on October 18th by President George W. Bush, provides a total of \$28.9 billion in net discretionary spending for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This is \$1.8 billion more than the FY 2004 enacted level. Including Project Bioshield, mandatory and fee-funded programs, a total of \$40.7 billion will be available to the Department in FY 2005.

Taken as a whole, the funding program will address a number of areas: strengthening border and port security, enhancing biodefense, information analysis and infrastructure protection, improving aviation security, support for state and local governments and first responders, enhancing immigration security and enforcement, eliminating the immigration backlog, increasing DHS preparedness and response capability, and strengthening the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

The areas of support for state and local governments and first responders and the National Incident Management System were the ones under the microscope at the Kearney conference. This gathering was the start of the process for 2005 grant funding. It laid out the specific goals of the 2005 state program, outlined the application process, explained Homeland Security Presidential Directives 5 & 8 (that deal specifically with NIMS and the National Preparedness Goal), and gave guidance for meeting 2005 program requirements.

The State of Nebraska will receive money to support the following grant programs, and will make applications available for all programs at the local level: EMPG (local approved emergency management programs), Citizen Corps (local programs with established citizen corps councils or that will establish councils), Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, Homeland Security Equipment Grant Program, Urban Areas Security Initiative and Metropolitan Medical Reserve Corps.

In Nebraska, the funding amounts for the six funding streams total \$23,655,542.

New to the process this year is the issue of Resolutions of Support. This requires a formal buy-in by officials at the local level to provide for a coordinated grant application. Village boards, city council and county boards or councils will be required to review the grant process and approve the jurisdiction's submission for grant funding.

A review of the State Homeland Security Strategy and an overview of the National Incident Management System were also core elements of the conference, as was an explanation of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8, "National Preparedness".

FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR...

December 2004

TO: Emergency Management Directors/Coordinators

FROM: Al Berndt

RE: 2005 Homeland Security Grant Program



The next round of ODP/Department of Homeland Security funding is gearing up, and activity at the agency is increasing daily. The 2005 program is evolving off the 2004 version, meaning that the grants will once again be awarded on a competitive basis. All projects under this year's program will also be required to support the state strategy that was written in 2004. Each application will need to demonstrate how the project will enhance comprehensive programs that emphasize training and exercising.

Adding to the requirements for 2005 projects is Presidential Homeland Security Directive 5. With this directive, the National Incident Management System, or NIMS, will become the order of business for state emergency management activities. All entities are required to incorporate NIMS in 2005 as standard procedure.

As things stand now, we expect to have our funding applications approved by the first of February, 2005. During the month of February we will be looking at project submissions and making funding determinations. First responders have the opportunity to get in some early work now before the clock starts running on project requests. They should be getting together now to assess their needs and begin to develop plans, so that the always-short submission period does not catch them by surprise.

Even more than with the 2004 grants, the 2005 program will emphasize comprehensive, well-thought-out programs that work together. We are looking for a much more integrated process this year. With that in mind, we are asking that all government entities within a jurisdiction have signed off on any projects submitted. This will ensure that all interests are represented when the programs are formulated.

N.E.M.A. personnel were involved in meetings with ODP during the first two weeks of December, getting a closer look at the structure behind the grant program. As we get information about timelines and requirements, we will be posting those and passing them along to all local jurisdictions. A little bit of advance work will make the process easier when crunch time comes, but don't overdo it. After all, it is the holiday season, and all of us at N.E.M.A. wish you the happiest of holidays.

Local emergency managers should be initiating the following actions at this time. Pre-planning and work will assist in making the application process smoother when it opens.

1. Re-establish working groups for the grant application process and review state strategy.
2. Inclusion of all jurisdictions and first responders within your county or region.
3. Lay the ground work through education and outreach for jurisdictional support resolutions.
4. Review authorized equipment lists at <http://www.rkb.mipt.org>. You will need to register with a password to access the site.
5. Review your training and exercising needs to support your program and start building a budget.
6. Review your current grants and make sure all your benchmarks are up to date.
7. Review the grant program guidelines via the links below.

2005
State
Homeland
Security
Program

2005
Emergency
Management
Performance
Grants

2005
Law
Enforcement
Terrorism
Prevention
Program

2005
Urban
Areas
Security
Initiative

2005
Metropolitan
Medical
Response
System

2005
Citizen
Corps
Program

HALLAM PROGRESSES WITH SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY

The tornados leveled the town of Hallam the night of May 22, 2004 – but they didn't level Hallam's spirit.

Hallam is rebuilding, and the goal is not to make it as good as it was. Through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Sustainable Recovery Initiative, the plan is to put Hallam back better than it was.

The program is a widespread joint venture, combining support and personnel from FEMA, NEMA, the Federal Office of Economic Development, the Hallam Village Board, and the businesses and residents of Hallam.

Under the Sustainable Recovery Initiative, a team of highly skilled recovery professionals helped develop Comprehensive Recovery Plans for the hard-hit community. The objective of the Plan is to identify projects that lead to revitalization of the community and its economy. A large part of the planning process involves mitigation – building in elements to prevent or reduce the severity of future disasters.

It's not a case of the Feds riding into town and telling folks what's going to happen, though. From the start it was realized that the plan had to come from Hallam and its residents, and must include their vision for their future. It would have to be both visionary and realistic, taking into account local budgets, outside assistance and the direction the town wants to go. To this end, a variety of recovery options were offered, and a course chosen.

A manager was hired by the federal government to work with the Village of Hallam throughout the planning and execution of the project, and to guide them through the maze of regulations and opportunities.

Work is progressing on a wide variety of projects within the community. As of the November Status Report, the project status is:



Hallam residential construction.



Hallam elevator construction.

HALLAM, NE SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY INITIATIVE— STATUS REPORT - NOVEMBER 2004

Summary of Recent Activities

Had a good meeting with the Lincoln-Lancaster Co Planning Dept. About the comp plan, its history, the history of the community's relationship with the Dept. etc. Planning Commission voted to invite the Lincoln-Lancaster Co, County Planner to a special meeting to discuss planning and the resources avail thru the Co. Plng Dept. Communication started with an industrial business prospect—it's a long shot because there isn't any available lots or buildings! Issue on temporary sealing of Auditorium cleared up. Finalized opinion survey for the auditorium. Conducted research to proceed with a salary survey to meet criteria of Community Development Block Grant programs and for USDA grants. Held a very nice commemoration of the 6mos anniversary.

Community Center (Auditorium & Fire Station)

Description: Redevelopment of the damaged Auditorium.

PW66, PW117, PW 182

Est. Cost/Budget: \$1,500,000 FEMA PA: 1,125,000; NEMA PA: 187,500 Funds needed: 187,500

Recovery History

08-2004: discussed funding assistance from NE-DED/USDA/EDA. EDA has infrastructure \$ available with little match! (see Water System for add. details), Hallam only qualifies for loans, not grants from USDA. “

09-2004: Village Board asks Planning Commission (P/C) to review the options and bring recommendation regarding the auditorium to the Board. Initial vote is to repair the facility, however, the P/C also chooses not to bring that vote forward and conduct addition research. JEO engineering develops detailed cost estimates and presents to the committee. Community considering separating the facilities and building the fire station in another location.

10-2004: Village Board accepts PW for protecting and securing the bldg for winter—JEO develops bid specs and advertises the project. P/C continues to research the topic and debate the issues at monthly meetings. Contract let for temporary repairs of the fire station, construction begins.”

11-2004: Board awards contract for sealing the bldg for winter. P/C votes to conduct community survey of attitudes and priorities of the community center. LAP available to assist collection of data

Recent Activity

Met with Planning Commission to finalize the survey for the auditorium

Cleared up issue on temporary sealing of the building. Next meeting of Planning Commission is Dec.1 to review the auditorium survey form

(Continued on Page 5)

Residential Development

Description:

Every residential structure in town damaged, most beyond repair."

Recent Activity

11-2004: 1st residents that are new to community have moved in.

Water & Sewer System

Description: Damage to all above-ground system elements

Est. Cost/Budget:

PW116 \$14,827; PWtbd(F-1) \$36,908; PW 318 \$21,388; PW353 \$0; PW 352 \$0; PW 354 \$29,504

History

Equipment buildings have been replaced and the water system is operational

Recent Activity

Some issues with water quality—not enough users yet to keep water moving in the system. They are flushing the system once a week.

Village Park

Description:

The ball field fencing, playground, shelter, concession were all destroyed"

Recovery History

>07-2004: disceasy

Recent Activity

11-2004: no update

Commercial Projects

Brothers Auto

Building back a larger facility than pre-disaster

Talk of the Town

(formerly the "Hitchin' Post" restaurant): New ownership has taken over. Rebuilding."

Tavern

Building back larger than pre-disaster. Adding a kitchen and expanding the level of services to the community

Deshler Elevator:

nearly 100% rebuilt as of December 2004. Larger facility than pre-disaster

Saline State Bank:

anticipate being back in operation by Jan 1 2005.

Heartland Welding

nearly 100% and operating

Community Foundation

Description:

Establishing a 501c3 organization to help with recovery efforts

Est. Cost/Budget:

\$100 startup, \$300 year, +administrative fee based on disbursements (if starting under the umbrella of the Nebraska Community Foundation)

Recent Activity

11-2004 prepared summary sheet and information packet for the Village Board for the Dec 6 meeting. Formally requested an amended fee schedule from the Nebraska Community Foundation to partner with Hallam in recovery

Planning Commission

Recovery History

Village Board asked the Planning Commission to study the Auditorium in detail and present issues and recommendations to the Board. No date for this information was determine

Recent Activity

11-25: Voted to invite the Lincoln-Lancaster Co.

communities planner to a special meeting to discuss planning issues. Voted to proceed with a Comprehensive Plan update—a long term project.

Improvement Committee

Description:

Grass roots committee that will focus on the betterment needs of the community. This includes social and capital issues.

Recovery History

10-2004: made distinction between the Planning Commission and Improvement Committee for projects & issues

Recent Activity

11-25-2004: Next meeting is December 1
11-2004: Planned and hosted an event commemorating the 6mos anniversary. A couple hundred people showed up and heard thanks for everyone's help. Channel 8 in Lincoln did a real video on the disaster and it was presented that evening. A lot more work involved than represented in 2 lines of summary

Trees

Description:

Most trees destroyed including all wind breaks and character of the community

History

08-2004: made the distinction between the tree project to replace trees in the ROW and the projects to provide trees on private property

Recent Activity

11-2004: trees donated by Heritage Nursery delivered. Held event where residents could pick out their trees.

Post Office

Description:

The leased facility that the Post Office occupied was destroyed in the disaster

Recovery History

07-2004: Temporary trailer set up in
11-2004: Temporary trailer moved to Hallam. Set up and operating. Permanent facility will depend on level of service that is required for Hallam area

Village Hall/Village Board

Description:

Building that housed the village offices destroyed

Est. Cost/Budget:

Pending determination of route the village chooses to pursue

Recovery History:

07-2004: Operating out of a VERY small trailer in the middle of the street.
09-2004: Working with Saline State Bank for a location within their building for the village office
10-2004: May not be able to be in the bank, considering going into the redeveloped community center. No decisions made."

Recent Activity

Next meetings: Dec 6 & Dec 14
11-2004: temporary trailer set up and moving the offices from the tiny trailer in the middle of the street.

Hazard Mitigation

Est. Cost/Budget:

pending

Recent Activity

Emergency Siren installed—it has battery backup!
12/16 - Special Town Hall Meeting to hear UNL Vision Document presentation

CHERRY / KEYA PAHA COUNTY DRILL SET FOR EARLY 2005

In January of 2005 Cherry and Keya Paha Counties will hold a functional exercise dealing with the issue of an attack on critical infrastructure and the resulting environmental and safety issues. This exercise will test the interaction and cooperation of local, state and federal agencies, as the scenario crosses numerous jurisdictional boundaries. Sponsored by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, using Office of Domestic Preparedness funding, the exercise will be conducted by ICF Consulting, in conjunction with N.E.M.A. and Cherry/Keya Paha County Emergency Management. Set to cover a three-day period, the exercise is scheduled for January 14-16, with an alternate date of January 21-23.

JUST A THOUGHT...

In the midst of the extensive current efforts to secure our homeland, some basic chinks remain in our armor. One fatal flaw may well be the unwillingness – or inability – of the citizenry to exercise basic common sense.

In early December a woman wearing green scrubs, a white labcoat and a stethoscope spent three days walking the commons area at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, MN, offering flu vaccine for \$20 per shot. The truly discouraging part of the story is that she found about three dozen takers, who she injected with an unknown substance.

There was no scheduled and posted vaccination clinic, just a freelancing nurse who contends she was using leftover flu vaccine in a fundraising effort for her daughter's school. But despite the fact that she was a total unknown, she was able to find more than 30 people who were willing to have her inject them with something, and pay her \$20 for the experience.

This is not an isolated case of unquestioning acceptance of implied credentials or validity, either. Recently a case in Texas, made headlines when it was discovered that a man with no medical credentials operated an OB/GYN clinic out of a self-storage facility for quite some time. He was found out by a police investigator who happened to read an ad in the classified section of an adult newspaper advertising free medical care, along with other services.

All the homeland security efforts that we can throw up will be drastically eroded if we cannot instill a sense of caution in the citizenry. It would appear that there are two components involved in the inability to see threats to our well-being – the sense that “it can't happen here”, and the “cry wolf” saturation effect of constant warnings and alerts. There must be some middle ground, where citizens can live stress-free lives without constantly looking over their shoulders, yet retain an awareness of things that just aren't right, and a healthy skepticism that keeps them from falling into harmful situations.

The mysterious nurse may have been injecting actual flu vaccine, or she may have been loaded with saline solution. The actual contents of those syringes – which is still unofficially unknown pending lab test results – is not the critical issue in the big picture. The frightening concept is the **potential** contents.

As long as people continue to open suspicious envelopes and packages, accept injections from un-credentialed “health workers” and pay no attention to activities and vehicles that are clearly out of the norm in familiar places, all the duct tape and border security in the world will not protect them from a determined enemy.

NeHSEEP COURSE SET FOR JANUARY

For those with a shortage of acronyms in their diet, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) will be conducting the NeHSEEP course in January of 2005.

NeHSEEP stands for the Nebraska Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program Planning and Management Course. The NeHSEEP combines Nebraska exercise philosophy with the requirements of the Office of Domestic Preparedness for exercise management and evaluation. The NeHSEEP process must be followed for all exercises funded by ODP with 2004 and future grant funds.

You will learn to schedule exercise development activities, develop a comprehensive evaluation process, analyze data collected from exercises, and fulfill After Action Report and Improvement Plan requirements. This course is a hands-on experience that involves class participation and facilitated discussion.

The course is essential for all persons with responsibility for managing the Exercise Program within their jurisdiction or agency, exercise and evaluation team leaders, or anyone who has a desire to more completely understand the NeHSEEP process.

All attendees must have attended Exercise Planning or Exercise Design Team Training. This course is a two day course which is a part of the Basic Academy and is also offered as a stand-alone course. All attendees should be members of their local or State agency exercise planning or evaluation team.

Additionally, all attendees must have **a letter from the jurisdictional emergency manager or the agency emergency management or homeland security supervisor** indicating that the attendee will be used as a resource in the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program for that agency or jurisdiction.

For more information about the course, contact Course Managers Eric Seberg (402-416-9814) eric.seberg@nema.state.ne.us or Sara Hartzell (402-416-9817) sara.hartzell@nema.state.ne.us. To register online go to http://nebema.nol.org/local/training_app.html.

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CONDUCTING EMERGENCY PLANNING SESSIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture continues to reach out to the Nebraska community through their Emergency Planning Sessions. These are gatherings that allow locals to become involved in contemporary issues of biosecurity.



To date the Department of Agriculture has conducted approximately 40 such sessions, with plans to do at least 20 more. When completed, the sessions will have covered all 93 Nebraska counties. Some county sessions are combined. In December, meetings have been held in Spencer and Verdigre, and plans are to also meet in Aurora, Sidney and Ogallala.

In the sessions, the Department of Ag talks about the effect of a foreign animal disease on Nebraska agriculture, and presents several scenarios to let attendees talk through the potential options and issues. They also have the opportunity to view a short film developed by the Department of Ag that explains disposal options for stricken livestock, and that shows how an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease was handled in the United Kingdom.

L.E.P.C. CONFERENCE DRAWS 55 TO KEARNEY

Nebraska Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Conference was held 12/2/04-12/04/04. Approximately 55 people from all over the state representing 30 plus LEPC's attended the conference. The first day began with someone dressed in orange jail clothes hand cuffed and carrying two homemade bombs walking in and tossing one of the bombs to State LEPC Coordinator Henry Tamasi. It actually was Professor Fred Cowie who is an expert in Hazardous Materials and how they relate to the LEPC side of things. His instruction was then followed up by Jon Schwarz who spoke about radiological monitoring and how it pertains to the state of Nebraska. The rest of the conference entailed an entire workshop and tabletop exercise put on by the exercise and training team led by our supervisor Dewayne Morrow. Thanks go out to Dewayne, Marie Christian, Eric Seberg, Tonya Smith and Jon Schwarz for all your help. Your professionalism was a true reflection on NEMA and the way business should be done. All reactions and evaluation forms showed that the conference was a huge success.

CITIZEN CORPS / C.E.R.T. TRAILERS DEPLOYED

Projects are underway in the nine jurisdictions that received ODP/DHS Citizen Corps grant funding for the 2004 grant year. In this round of grants the program changed from previous years, distributing the funding around the state on a project basis, rather than the centralized contracted structure of previous years.

In this system, the local jurisdictions awarded the grant funding budgeted for consumable items involved in running Citizen Corps programs. N.E.M.A. provides the durable items for Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) training. These items are contained in two C.E.R.T. trailers, one dedicated to the eastern end of the state and the other located to serve western Nebraska communities.

These C.E.R.T. trailers must be scheduled far in advance of intended use in order to coordinate their location. Consequently, a Nebraska CERT and Citizen Corps schedule is maintained on the Citizen Corps website at www.citizencorps.com under Calendar:Nebraska. To reserve the use of a CERT trailer, requests must be made in advance by emailing Susan.Burton@hhss.ne.gov and copying James.Bunstock@nema.state.ne.us. First priority for the use of these CERT trailers will go to jurisdictions with projects under the 2004 Grant Program. Any jurisdiction without a project that wishes to make use of a CERT trailer will need be sure that there are no conflicts for their preferred date, and arrange for a listed CERT instructor to transport the trailer.

It is the responsibility of any jurisdiction using a CERT trailer to ensure that it is loaded with all materials that it was received with. The State of Nebraska provides only durable CERT training equipment — consumables are the responsibility of the local jurisdiction. This includes all equipment given to students, any first-aid supplies used that are not designed for re-use, and charging of the provided fire extinguishers.

Required documents for all Nebraska CERT trainings/activities include: Completed NEMRS form; Completed Excel Spreadsheet of collected data from Training; Copies of CERT instructor contract. Items listed above are required prior to reimbursement.

All emailed documents need to be sent to James.Bunstock@nema.state.ne.us and copied to Susan.Burton@hhss.ne.gov. Contracts, NEMRS, and any reimbursement requests should be sent to Jim Bunstock at NEMA. The NEMRS form can be found on the N.E.M.A. website. The Excel spreadsheet for student information and a sample instructor contract can be obtained from Susan Burton or Jim Bunstock.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ROLLS OUT FIRE CORPS PROGRAM AS CITIZEN CORPS COMPONENT

On December 9th 2005, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officially announced the launch of the Fire Corps program. Fire Corps will mirror the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program and will promote the use of citizen advocates to enhance the capacity of resource-constrained fire and rescue departments at all levels: volunteer, combination, and career. Fire Corps volunteer activities may include assisting fire department personnel with administrative duties, performing education and outreach efforts to encourage fire safety and prevention, supporting CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training in emergency preparedness and basic response techniques, and other non-suppression activities unique to rural and urban areas.

Fire Corps is funded through DHS and is managed and implemented through a partnership among the National Volunteer Fire Council, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs Volunteer Combination Officers Section, and the U.S. Fire Administration.

The official launch took place in conjunction with the first meeting of the Fire Corps National Advisory Committee (which also serves as the Fire Sub-Committee of the National Citizen Corps Council). Members of the Committee are:

Congressional Fire Services Institute
 Fire Department Safety Officers Association
 International Association of Arson Investigators
 International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters
 International Association of Fire Chiefs
 International Association of Fire Fighters
 International Fire Service Training Association
 International Society of Fire Service Instructors
 National Association of Hispanic Firefighters
 National Association of State Fire Marshals
 National Fire Protection Association
 National Volunteer Fire Councils
 North American Fire Training Directors
 U.S. Fire Administration

These organizations gave their commitment to promote Fire Corps to their membership and to encourage fire service personnel to participate on local Citizen Corps Councils. Secretary Ridge and White House Deputy Chief of Staff Joe Hagan (an ex-volunteer fire fighter!) also attended and expressed their support.

For more information and to register your program, please visit the new website: www.firecorps.org or contact the Fire Corps Director:



NATE SWANSON LEAVING NEMA

Nate Swanson, one of NEMA's Exercise Training Officers (ETOs), has accepted a position as Captain with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services' Work Ethic Camp near McCook. He will leave NEMA on December 23, 2004.

Swanson joined NEMA in July of 2003 as one of a team of five ETOs added to the agency's Planning, Training & Exercise Division through Department of Homeland Security funding. His new position will be something of a return to his roots, as he was employed by Corrections before joining NEMA.

He will be returning in more than one sense, as his hometown is Arapahoe, 40 miles east of McCook.

In addition to his position with the Work Ethic Camp, Nate will work closely with Red Willow County Emergency Management, and will also serve as a Reserve Deputy with the Red Willow County Sheriff's Office.